

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~device comprising:~~
 ~~a physical communication component; and~~
 ~~a processor coupled with the physical communication component, in which the processor~~
~~is adapted to~~ computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions
that, when executed by a processor of a computer system to perform the following:
 receive contending requests for respective non-contending wireless data transmissions
through a medium;
 schedule an ending time of a time window for the non-contending wireless data
transmissions during which all contending requests are impermissible;
 communicate the scheduled ending time;
 monitor the medium;
 determine that one of the wireless non-contending wireless data transmissions through
the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time;
 communicate that subsequent transmitting of contending requests for subsequent non-
contending wireless data transmissions are permissible before the scheduled ending time;
 receiving transmitted contending requests for requesting reservation of subsequent non-
contending wireless data transmissions before the scheduled ending time; and
 scheduling a new time window for other non-contending wireless data transmissions
during which contending requests are impermissible according to the contending requests
received before the scheduled ending time.
2. (Currently amended) The ~~device~~ computer readable medium of claim 1, in which the
processor is further adapted to:
 detect an idle time in the medium; and
 compare the idle time to a preset minimum time;
 and in which the non-contending wireless data transmission is determined to have ended
if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~device~~ computer readable medium of claim 1 including:
adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and
pursuant to the notification readjust the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the requests for contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~device~~ computer readable medium of claim 2, in which the preset minimum time equals a DIFS (distributed coordination function inter-frame space).

5. (Currently amended) A ~~device comprising:~~
~~a physical communication component; and~~
~~a processor coupled with the physical communication component, in which the processor is adapted to~~ computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor of a computer system, cause said processor to:
receive data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;
decode from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;
then receive notification that contention will be permitted before the scheduled ending time;
transmit requests to contend for the medium for reserving a next contention-free time window before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification;
adjust a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and
pursuant to the notification readjust the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the requests for contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

6. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, in which receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, in which
adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down
commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and
readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller value.
9. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 8, in which
the smaller value is zero.
10. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
means for receiving contending requests for reserving respective non-contending wireless
transmissions through a medium;
means for scheduling an ending time of a time window during which subsequent
contending requests are impermissible;
means for communicating the scheduled ending time;
means for monitoring the medium during the non-contending wireless transmissions;
means for determining that one of the non-contending wireless transmissions through
the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time; and
means for communicating that transmitting additional subsequent contending requests for
reserving other non-contending wireless transmissions are permissible even if made before the
scheduled ending time;
means for adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium
before the scheduled ending time;
means for readjusting the contention mechanism to enable contending for the medium
before the scheduled ending time pursuant to a notification.
11. (Previously presented) The device of claim 10, further comprising:
means for detecting an idle time in the medium; and
means for comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;
and in which the wireless transmissions are determined to have ended if the idle time is
longer than the preset minimum time.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, in which
the preset minimum time equals a DIFS.

14. (Previously presented) A device comprising:

means for receiving data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;

means for decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;

means for then receiving notification that contention will be permitted before the
scheduled ending time for the contention-free window;

means for transmitting contending requests for the medium before the scheduled ending
time for reserving another contention-free window for sending data pursuant to the notification;

means for adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium
before the scheduled ending time; and

means for readjusting the contention mechanism to enable contending for the medium
before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, in which
the means for receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating
frame.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, in which

the means for adjusting the contention mechanism includes means for setting a counter to
count down commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and

the means for readjusting the contention mechanism includes means for advancing the
counter to a smaller value.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, in which
the smaller value is zero.

19. (Currently amended) ~~An article comprising: a storage medium, the~~ A storage medium having computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions stored thereon, in which that, when the instructions are executed by at least one device, they result in by a processor of a computer system to perform the following:

receiving contending requests for respective non-contending wireless transmissions through a medium;

scheduling an ending time of a non-contending time window during which subsequent contending requests are impermissible;

communicating the scheduled ending time;

monitoring the medium;

determining that one of the non-contending wireless transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time; and

communicating that subsequent contending requests can be transmitted for reserving subsequent non-contending wireless transmissions even if made before the scheduled ending time;

adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and

pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium before the scheduled ending time.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ computer readable medium of claim 19, in which the instructions further result in:

detecting an idle time in the medium; and

comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;

and in which the non-contending wireless transmissions are determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ computer readable medium of claim 20, in which the instructions further result in:

starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at least one device, they result in:~~ A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor of a computer system to perform the following:

- receiving data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;
- decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;
- receiving notification that transmitting contention requests for reserving a next contention-free window will be permitted before the scheduled ending time;
- transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium for transmitting data in the next contention-free window before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification;
- adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and
- pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium before the scheduled ending time.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ computer readable medium of claim 23, in which receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ computer readable medium of claim 23, in which adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller value.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ computer readable medium of claim 26, in which the smaller value is zero.

28. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving transmitted contending requests for respective non-contending wireless transmissions through a medium;
scheduling an ending time of a time window during which transmitting subsequent contending requests are impermissible;
communicating the scheduled ending time;
monitoring the medium;
determining that one of the wireless transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time;
communicating a terminating frame that indicates transmitting subsequent contending requests are permissible for reserving a next non-contending wireless transmission even if made before the scheduled ending time; and
receiving transmitted contending requests before the scheduled ending time for requesting reservation of the next non-contending wireless transmission in response to communicating the terminating frame,
adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and
pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

detecting an idle time in the medium; and
comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;
and in which the wireless transmission is determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving data about a contention-free time window for transporting information over a medium;

decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;

receiving notification that transmitting a contention request will be permitted before the scheduled ending time of the contention-free window;

transmitting the contention request for requesting transporting information contention-free over the medium before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification;

adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and

pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, in which

receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, in which

adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and

readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller value.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, in which

the smaller value is zero.